

What is Wilderness?

The Wilderness Act of 1964 defines Wilderness as:

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.



Map sections are from the Southern Blues Mountain map, available for purchase at all Malheur National Forest offices.

For More Information

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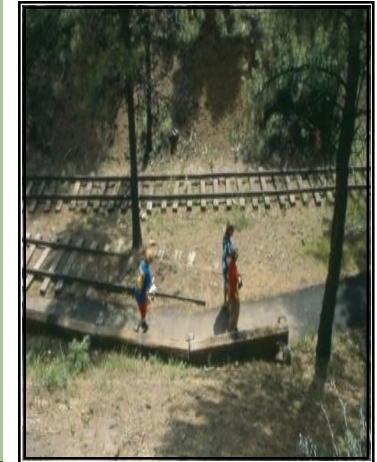
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**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



Sumpter Valley Trail #260



**Forest Service Malheur
National Forest**

Sumpter Valley Inter. Trail #260

The Sumpter Valley Interpretive Trail is located on Dixie Mountain off of Hwy 26, and ranges in elevation from 5250 ft. to 5277

This trail can be easily reached during the spring and summer months for recreation. The trail is a great opportunity for learning the history of the Sumpter Valley Railroad.

Though this trail is not in the wilderness, horses, bicycles or motorized vehicles are prohibited.



What to Look Forward To

The trail overlooks the historic Dixie switchbacks used and abandoned by the Sumpter Valley Railway. The switchbacks were built to maintain acceptable grades into the John Day Valley. At 5277 feet, it was the highest point on the original Sumpter Valley Railway mainline. Interpretive signs along the route show the history of the Sumpter Valley Railway and how it came to be built into Prairie City and why the route was abandoned.

Great Hike

This is a short trail, yet it is full of history. The hike doesn't have much of a change in elevation but it is worth the visit for beautiful scenery, and a great history lesson. The trail is easily accessed off of the highway with a parking area as well as a picnic area. This is a barrier free, interpretive trail.

Safety In the Woods

Be prepared for all types of conditions and weather. Bring with you extra food and water. Be bear and cougar aware. Have a plan for your trip including route of travel and an estimated time of return. Let family or friends know your plans. Do not rely on cell coverage or GPS. Carry a paper map and know how to read it. Plan ahead and be safe.

Trail Information

The trail is .25 miles in length one way.

Easy

Directions

From the town of Prairie City travel east on Hwy 26 about 8 miles. The site is on the right before Dixie Summit.

